(c) The State Government of Maharashtra sought exemption from Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970 in Special Economic Zones, Textiles & IT sectors while providing jobs security to the contract workers.

Conditions of bonded labourers

974. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conditions of bonded labourers in the country has gone from bad to worse, if so, what steps are planned for, to tackle this problem

(b) where this problem exists out of eighteen States; and

(c) whether eleven States are not following directives of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure compliances of the directives of NHRC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir. The Bonded Labour System has been abolished by law through out the country *w.e.f.* 24.10.1975 under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. As per the Act, Vigilance Committees have been constituted both at district and sub-divisional levels by the States/ Union Territories for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers. The District and Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been entrusted with certain duties and responsibilities under the Act with a view to take punitive action against the offenders for violation of the provisions of the Act.

(b) Incidence of Bonded Labour System have been reported from time to time, from 15 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(c) The National Human Rights Commission in their report dated 27th March, 2003 submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court informed that the response received from some States in relation to furnishing of information for monitoring of identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourer was unsatisfactory and requested that specific directions be issued by the Apex court to these States. The Supreme Court in its order dated 15.7.2003 in Writ Petition No. 3922/85 have directed 11 State

Governments to furnish required status reports as requested by the NHRC with effect from 1st January, 2002. The Ministry of Labour has also requested these State Governments for compliance of the above directions.

Deposit of PF Share

975. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States, which are not depositing their PF shares; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure timely deposit of PF share by the State Governments and the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, the States do not contribute to the Provident Fund. However, details of the default of provident fund dues by the State Public Sector Undertakings, State-wise, is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) In the cases of non-depositing the Provident Fund share in time, the action is taken under section 7A, 8F, 8B to 8G, 14(1)(A), 14(B), 7Q of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, under section 406/409 of IPC and under section 110 of CrPC.

Statement

State-wise details of default of PF dues by State Public Sector Undertakings

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of State PSUs in default	Amount outstanding
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48	1733.80
2.	Bihar	24	3454.28
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	0.00
4.	Gujarat	9	76.89
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2.18
6.	Haryana	2	3.95
7.	Karnataka	15	189.91